

REMARKS

Please consider the following remarks:

The Specification Amendments

37 CFR Section 1.57(a) states that if all or a portion of the drawing(s) are inadvertently omitted from an application, but the application contains a claim under §1.78 for the benefit of a prior-filed nonprovisional application that was present on the filing date of the application, and the inadvertently omitted portion of the drawing(s) is completely contained in the prior-filed application, the claim under §1.78 shall also be considered an incorporation by reference of the prior-filed application as to the inadvertently omitted portion of the drawing(s).

The subject application contains such a benefit claim, and furthermore includes an explicit incorporation by reference statement, both of which were present on the filing date of the subject application (Preliminary Amendment filed November 17, 2003 making reference to parent Application No. 09/731,126, which granted as USPN 6,818,392 on November 16, 2004).

Applicants thus hereby amend the specification to insert Figures 1-8 into the above-identified patent application. Figures 1-8 are substantively identical to those filed in the parent application and merely have been rendered "formal". Figures 1-8 as presently filed, apart from the "New Sheet" insertion in the top margin, are identical to and were retrieved from the USPTO PAIR file for the counterpart Application No. 10/940,237 (6755USD7).

The present amendment thus merely embodies the correction of formal matters, placing the present application in position for immediate allowance. The amendment adds no new matter to the application. For this reason, applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Parkin for the kindness extended to applicants' counsel by the brief discussion held on January 7, 2011 regarding filing of the present amendment (as well as a technical issue regarding citation on the USPTO PAIR website of a 3/27/2004 SBE form that is not properly part of the subject application, and which applicants' counsel is seeking to remedy).

CONCLUSION

The application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance. Applicants believe they have addressed all rejections in the Office communication. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou, et al.

ABBOTT LABORATORIES
Customer No.: 23492
Telephone: (847) 938-3440
Facsimile: (847) 938-7827

/Audrey L. Bartnicki, Reg. No. 40,499/
Audrey L. Bartnicki
Registration No. 40,499
Attorney for Applicants

Carol Larcher, Reg. No. 35,243
Larcher & Chao Law Group
9239 Gross Point Rd, Ste 202A
Skokie, IL 60077